

**Security Council**

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**Identical letters dated 19 December 2001 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and
to the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 15 December 2001 from Mr. Najj Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 16 to 30 November 2001 they carried out 187 hostile sorties, 48 of them from Saudi Arabia, 63 from Kuwait and 76 from Turkey. On 27 November 2001, United States and British aircraft fired missiles at a civilian site in Dhi Qar Governorate, wounding one citizen and destroying several civilian installations.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that full international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He further states that Iraq reserves its right, as established by the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to defend itself against this ongoing hostile, terrorist activity. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by ensuring that this persistent aggression is halted and does not recur and that its perpetrators and the regional parties that associate themselves with it are made to bear full legal responsibility for it.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Munim **Al-Kadhe**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the identical letters dated 19 December 2001 from the
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the
President of the Security Council**

I should like to inform you that United States of America and the United Kingdom have continued their aerial aggression against the Republic of Iraq and that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Turkey have also continued to provide logistic facilities for this aggression. United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have thus continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They flew 187 armed sorties in the period from 16 to 30 November 2001, 48 of them from Saudi Arabia, 63 from Kuwait and 76 from Turkey, as shown in the statement enclosed herewith. On 27 November 2001, United States and British aircraft fired missiles at a civilian site in Dhi Qar Governorate, wounding one citizen and destroying several civilian installations.

The enforcement by the United States and the United Kingdom of the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq is an internationally unlawful act and a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the established norms of international law. It constitutes an illegal use of armed force against the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Iraq, and it is to be regarded as an ongoing act of aggression such as accords with the Definition of Aggression approved by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 November 1974. Most of the world's countries have condemned the maintenance of the no-flight zones as representing an illegitimate use of force against an independent State. The United Nations, as represented by the Secretary-General, has also affirmed that the claim that the Security Council resolutions concerning Iraq authorize the imposition of the no-flight zones is groundless.

The attacks being launched by United States and British aircraft on Iraqi towns and villages and on structures that are basic to life in the country, including health-care and educational establishments and houses of worship, constitute blatant State terrorism that has now been practised for more than 10 years and has caused the deaths of thousands of Iraqi citizens, has left tens of thousands injured and has brought about the destruction of vital amenities and infrastructure. That the United Nations, the Security Council and you yourself should remain mere spectators in the presence of this aggression and this blatant State terrorism against Iraq raises serious questions about the credibility of the United Nations and about its capacity to apply the norms of the Charter to all without distinction and without the use of double standards.

The Government of Iraq considers that the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom and the countries that share in this terrorist aggression, namely Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, should bear full responsibility for their illegal actions. It affirms Iraq's established entitlement under the Charter of the United Nations and international law to exercise its legitimate right to defend itself against this ongoing hostile, terrorist activity. It further requests you to perform the duties assigned to you as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security, to call upon the governments of the countries in question to halt their continuing aggression against Iraq forthwith and to ensure that those committing the

aggression and the regional parties collaborating in that aggression, namely Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, are made to bear full legal responsibility for it.

(Signed) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Violations of the airspace of the Republic of Iraq by United States and British warplanes, 16-30 November 2001

1. In the northern region 76 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1205 hours on 16 November 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 12 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Amadiyah, Dohuk, Zakho, Irbil and Aqrah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1500 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1100 hours on 19 November 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 10 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil and Ayn Sifni areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1055 hours on 20 November 2001, United States and British F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Dohuk, Rawanduz and Dokan areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1100 hours on 26 November 2001, United States and British F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 10 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Baibo, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Rawanduz and Dokan areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1125 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1134 hours on 27 November 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 12 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Dohuk and Baibo areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1200 hours on 28 November 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 12 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Dokan and Rawanduz areas. Our air

defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1305 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 111 armed sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1055 hours on 16 November 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 armed sorties, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basrah, Salman, Amarah, Qurnah, Ashbajah, Lasaf and Qal'at Sukkar areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1425 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1155 hours on 17 November 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 armed sorties, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Umm Qasr, Busayyah, Artawi, Salman, Ashbajah, Basrah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Nasiriyah and Shatrah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1500 hours on 20 November 2001, United States and British F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 armed sorties, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Jalibah, Salman, Ashbajah, Busayyah and Safwan areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1545 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1430 hours on 21 November 2001, United States and British F-15 aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out six armed sorties from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Safwan and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1515 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 2115 hours on 22 November 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 armed sorties, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Nasiriyah and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 2230 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 2030 hours on 23 November 2001, United States and British F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out six armed sorties, four of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah area. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 2200 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 2100 hours on 24 November 2001, United States and British F-14 and F-15 aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 10 armed sorties, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 2200 hours, drove them off.

(h) At 2130 hours on 25 November 2001, United States and British F-14 and F-15 aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 armed sorties, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah, Jalibah, Salman, Ashbajah and Basrah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 2310 hours, drove them off.

(i) At 2145 hours on 26 November 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 armed sorties, four of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control

aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Safwan, Salman and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 2335 hours, drove them off.

(j) At 1100 hours on 27 November 2001, United States and British F-15 aircraft coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out five armed sorties from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Safwan, Artawi, Jalibah, Nasiriyah and Dayr areas. The United States and British aircraft fired missiles at a civilian site in Dhi Qar Governorate, wounding one citizen and destroying several civilian installations. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1150 hours, drove them off.